

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5656

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME OPRY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, MARR

SUBJ: VISIT TO U.S. BY WESTERN UNION ASSEMBLY (WEU) COMMITTEES

REF: PARIS 3043

1. SUMMARY: TWO MAIN COMMITTEES OF WEU ASSEMBLY (DEFENSE, AND GENERAL AFFAIRS) HAVE PROPOSED SHORT VISIT TO U.S. IN FEB-MARCH 1974. PURPOSE OF TRIP WOULD BE TO DISCUSS US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. WE SEE MAJOR ADVANTAGES TO U.S. POLICY GOALS IN PROPOSED VISIT IN TERMS OF PROMOTING SUPPORT FOR OUR VIEW OF TRANS-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP, FOR BURDENSARING AND FOR BETTER CONGRESSIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF EUROPEAN VIEWS AND DEFENSE PERFORMANCE. VISIT WOULD BE AT NO COST TO USG. EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT'S FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AS WE ANTICIPATED (REFTEL), WEU ASSEMBLY HAS NOR PROPOSED 5 - 10 DAY VISIT TO U.S. IN TIME FRAME FEB 20 TO MARCH 31,
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1974 (PREFERABLY FIRST HALF OF MARCH) FOR ITS TWO PRINCIPAL COM-

MITTEES: COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE QUESTIONS AND ARMAMENTS, AND GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. BOTH COMMITTEES WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE USG, OF BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS, AND TO HAVE SOME ACADEMIC CONTACTS. DISCUSSIONS WOULD FOCUS ON US/EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN THE POLITICAL, DEFENSE AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. FULL DETAILS HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/RPM AND EUR/RPE.

3. THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE LAST VISITED THE U.S. IN MARCH 1972. THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE VISITED U.S. IN MAY - JUNE 1973. BOTH VISITS WERE CONSIDERED VERY USEFUL SO FAR AS THE WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE CONCERNED, AND WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN MAINTAINING THE GENERALLY PRO-US AND PRO-NATO STANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY. SINCE THEN, HOWEVER, THE QUESTION OF US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS -- PARTICULARLY IN THE SECURITY FIELD -- HAS TAKEN ON NEW IMPORTANCE AND HAS BECOME A DOMINANT THEME IN WEU ASSEMBLY PROGRA. AS WE REPORTED IN PARIS 30342 AND PARIS 30343, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT NOVEMBER WEU ASSEMBLY MEETING WAS DOMINATED BY TWO PAPERS PREPARED FOR MEETING: EVOLUTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND U.S., AND EUROPEAN SECURITY RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. (BOTH PAPERS POUCHED TO EUR/RPM). WE EXPECT NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH SAME THEMES. BEHIND THIS LES# DEEP SEATED BELIEF WITHIN ASSEMBLY THAT EUROPE'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., PARTICULARLY IN THE SECURITY FIELD, ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO EUROPE TO PERMIT ANY MISTRUST OR UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THEM TO CONTINUE.

4. WHILE ASSEMBLY ITSELF IS A RELATIVELY IMPOTENT ORGANIZATION, ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS -- WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, FRG, UK, ITALY AND FRANCE -- CARRY WEIGHT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PARLIAMENTS AND NATIONS. MOREOVER, PERIOD OF TRANSITION IN EUROPEAN POLITICAL, AND PERHAPS DEFENSE, AFFAIRS MAY LEAD TO INCREASED ROLE FOR WEU IN GENERAL AND FOR ASSEMBLY IN PARTICULAR. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES MERIT SPECIAL ATTENTION FROM USG IN TERMS OF PROMOTING OUR INTERESTS.

5. WE SEE SEVERAL SPECIFIC ADVANTAGES TO SUPPORTING COMMITTEES VISIT TO U.S.

(A) AT MOMENT WHEN TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE SEEMS SUBJECT TO ABUNDANCE OF STATIC, VISIT WOULD OFFER OPPORTUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ENGAGE GROUP OF EUROPENS WHO GENERALLY ARE VERY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO CONCEPT OF ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP. THIS WOULD NOT BE "PREACHING TO THE CONVERTED," HOWEER, SINCE MANY OF THOSE WITH DEEPEST LOYALTIES TO THREE DECADES OF TRANS-ATLANTIC TIES ARE UNCERTAIN OF U.S. -- AND EUROPEAN -- INTENTIONS IN THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION.

(B) AS WE SEEK TO OBTAIN A MORE EQUITABLE SHARING OF NATO FINANCIAL BURDEN, WE COULD USE OPPORTUNITY OF VISIT TO PRE-

SEBT OUR CASE TO PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM SEVEN NATO NATIONS. MOREOVER, SINCE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ALSO TEND TO HAVE STRONG INTEREST IN DEFENSE AFFAIRS AND TO BE NATO SUPPORTERS, THEY REPRESENT PRECISELY THE PRO-U.S. AND PRO- NATO ELEMENTS WE WILL NEED TO LOOK TO FOR SUPPORT IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS ON ISSUES SUCH AS URDENSHARING.

(C) IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH U.S. CONGRESSMEN AND U.S. ACADEMIC WORLD, ASSEMBLY VISITORS WOULD PUBLICIZE PRO-U.S. VIEWS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THE VERY REAL EFFORTS EUROPEANS ARE MAKING IN THE COMMON DEFENSE, THUS SUPPORTING OUR EFFORTS (E.G., EUROGROUP REVIVAL SNCE 1970) TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION OF ALLIES.

6. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

(A) BOTH COMMITTEES WOULD LIKE COMBINED SCHEDULE (ABOUT FIVE DAYS) FOR USG/CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS, DISCUSSIONS AT HARVARD'S CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND AT ONE OF FOLLOWING: BROOKINGS INSTITUTE, IDA, OR WOODROW WILSON INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOLARS.

(B) DEFENSE COMMITTEE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE VISIT TO OPERATIONAL MILITARY FACILITY SUCH AS HQ. SAC OR WHITE SANDS MISSILE TRAINING AREA.

(C) THE COSTS OF ALL TRAVEL AND HOTELS WOULD BE BORNE BY WEU ASSEMBLY OR NATIONAL BUDGETS OF ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARIANS.

(D) WEU WOULD RECRUIT AND PAY INTERPRETERS TO ACCOMPANY COMMITTEES, ALTHOUGH WASHINGTON'S ASSISTANCE IN RECRUITMENT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

(E) ANTICIPATE 20-40 PARTICIPANTS.

7. TEXT OF PERSONAL MESSAGE TO SECRETARY FROM GEORG KAHNA ACKERMANN (FRG PARLIAMENTARIAN), CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, TRANSMITTED SPETEL.

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8. EMBASSY URGES DEPARTMENT SUPPORT ASSEMBLY'S VISIT BY PROVIDING FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE. IN SEPARATE MESSAGE (PARIS 32528) AMBASSADOR IRWIN HS EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR PROJECT.
STONE

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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